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HOPE AMID THE RUINS

by Dirk Dunning

Dirk Dunning has attended the GATEWAY VOYAGE®, GUIDELINES® (twice), LIFELINE® (twice), HEARTLINE®, EXPLORATION 27®, and BEYOND EXPLORATION 27. Since August 23, 2000, Dirk has drawn on his extensive program background to moderate two of The Monroe Institute's e-mail discussion groups. Seventy-two LIFELINE graduates participate in TMI Lifeline, and fifty-three GUIDELINES graduates participate in Guideliners. The groups are forums for sharing experiences, asking questions, and discussing concepts and ideas among friends. Members also employ their TMI training in outreach activities. The value of their skills was especially apparent in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

Shortly after the World Trade Center was destroyed and the Pentagon was attacked, many of us felt called to do what we could for those who perished that day. The TMI Lifeline members began doing individual and group retrievals. The Guideliners soon joined in, and both continued making retrievals over the next several days.

My initial impressions mirrored those of many others. Immediately after the disaster, the scene was surreal. The dust and chaos were overwhelming. There was so much death. And yet, there was also amazing order. Groups of people were helping others out of the mangled buildings. A column of light rose above the crumpled towers. There were just so many people working together! It was extremely hard at times to tell the living from the dead. Members of our groups reported trying to retrieve victims, only to be rebuffed because they were actually rescuers. Many who had just crossed over were acting as guides. Incredibly, they were returning immediately to help their friends and neighbors to find their way.

On October 6, I returned to Monroe for BEYOND EXPLORATION 27. One of my fellow participants had begun retrievals as soon as the towers collapsed. At first, she proceeded one by one or in small groups. She quickly realized that the sheer numbers of the deceased made that impractical. So, she addressed that problem by teaching those she retrieved how to do retrievals themselves.

On the evening after the disaster, I made my second trip to the World Trade Center site and found many still trapped there. I decided to employ a technique Bruce Moen used after the Oklahoma City bombing. I envisioned the area clear of dust and debris with a gentle slope to the surface. Then I simply "saw" the people whole and free of the buildings and began helping them to the surface. Guides received them there and shepherded them on to the light.

Others in the LIFELINE group encountered very similar circumstances. The dead firefighters and policemen were among the hardest to help. They were so focused that many continued their efforts— totally unaware of their own deaths. Dan Dunlevy sought guidance on assisting the firefighters, and guidance responded by becoming victims for them to rescue. It worked! The airplane passengers were another matter entirely. I've intervened at many plane crashes. Usually the sites are crowded with traumatized souls. In these cases, the end came so suddenly that the passengers transitioned smoothly. They never doubted that they were dead.

Several members of TMI Lifeline and Guideliners agreed to describe their personal reactions and observations. They are quoted below.

"I cried out to the TV, 'Oh no, no. The people, all those souls gone!' A friend called just then, and we wept together. As we talked the second tower collapsed, and our hearts sank with helpless sadness and grief. My guidance brought a calm sense of peace over me then sent a surge of hope that I must help in the way I knew best, by retrieving those souls at the disaster sites."

"When I tap into the energy of the masses of souls that have just left the planet, I'm getting a very strong feeling that they are all turning around and coming back to rescue us from our own terror and chaos and deep feelings of tragedy. They are saying that WE need the rescuing more than they, because they are in peace and light and love."

"The emotional flow was much less as the helpers were really moving people along and the wailing was now only an occasional cry. It broke my heart. The firefighters and policemen, even knowing they had died, were still trying to help people. They would say, 'Don't worry. Someone will come to get us out,' referring to their brothers on this side."

"I was in the middle of the rubble. People could not find a way out; I pushed them up through a hole to the light and hands came down to take over. I went on to the Pentagon to see if I could help there. A lady in a pink dress suit was wandering around. She looked up at me and said, 'I only went for coffee, I only went for coffee.' I told her it was okay over and over again to get through to her and [asked her] to take my hand. She took my hand. We started up to a hole in the rubble and hands reached her. She was gone."

"I asked spirit to put me wherever I was needed. I was sitting in a seat saying the Lord's Prayer. I looked around and realized I was in a plane. I had a 'moment' of fear that I was going to be silenced. I said my prayer louder, especially 'for thou art with me.' I felt the love of God in my heart... peace, quiet. I drifted above. I found myself in a 'grid' of loving light. Thousands joined me. We were above New York City. We were like a carpet of peace, love, and light. There could have been angels of light with the people. It was so loving and bright." As horrible as these events were, the scene on the other side gave me amazing hope. Here, with so many hurt, all kinds of people— living and dead—were helping one another, joining together in a

common cause. I extend my deepest thanks to TMI Lifeline and Guideliners members who worked so hard to help the victims. Our hearts go out to the families of those who were lost on September 11.

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